

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /084 W

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R 281903Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, C

SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA ATTACK ON CHINA

1. THE GDR HAS COME FORWARD WITH AN EXTENSIVE ATTACK ON CHINA IN A PAGE-LONG, SIGNED EDITORIAL IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAN (ND) AUGUST 25 UNDER THE HEADING: "MAOISM IN OPEN ALLIANCE WITH WORLD REACTION: CHINESE LEADERSHIP HARDENS DOMESTIC COURSE AND INTENSIFIED GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM." THE ARTICLE CONTRASTS THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN EUROPE IN THE WAKE OF HELSINKI WITH MAOIST ATTEMPTS TO SUPPORT ANTI-DETENTE CIRCLES IN THE WEST WHO SEEK A RETURN TO THE COLD WAR, AND SINGLES OUT CHINESE ANTI-SOVIETISM AS THE KEY TO ITS

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ALLIANCE WITH THE "FORCES OF REACTION" IN THE WEST.

ALETING ITS READERSHIP THAT THE "ANTI-SOCIALIST, ANTI-PEACE" TENDENCIES OF THE MAOIST REGIME HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT CHINESE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES HAVE ENTERED A NEW STATE CHARACTERIZED BY: A) A HARDENING AND RELATIVE STABILIZATION OF THE MILITARY-BUREAUCRATIC REGIME IN CHINA; B) A STEPPING UP OF WIDELY PUBLICIZE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR; C) OPEN BLOC BUILDING WITH "THE MOST REACTIONARY CIRCLES OF IMPERIALISM" AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION; AND D) INTERSIFIED MAOIST "GREAT POWER CHAUVINISM."

2. SEVERAL OF THE JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE SOVIET POSITION AGAINST CHINA OFFERED IN THIS ARTICLE ATTEMPT TO COUNTER ACCUSATIONS THE CHINESE HAVE LONG LEVELED AT THE SOVIETS. FIRST, IN MEETING THE CHINESE CLAIM THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ON THE ROAD TO CAPITALISM, THE ND ARTICLE CHARGES THAT THE CHINESE HAVE GONE AGAINST THE "SOCIALIST PRINCIPLE OF DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO PERFORMANCE" AND HAVE DEPRIVED THE WORKER OF INCENTIVES AND VACATIONS ALONG THE WAY. HERE THE AUTHOR IS CAREFUL TO REFER TO DISTRIBUTION BY PERFORMANCE AS A SOCIALIST PRINCIPLE AND TO AVOID ALL MENTION OF THE WELL-KNOWN MARXIST PRECEPT "TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS." SECOND, THE ARTICLE DISMISSES CHINESE THEORIES OF SOVIET "SOCIAL IMPERIALIAM" AS AS NOTHING MORE THAN MAOIST ANTI-SOVIETISM DESIGNED TO DIVIDE THE SOCIALIST WOULD MOVEMENT. THIRD, THE ARTICLE MAKES AN IRONIC REFERENCE TO CSCE IN ACCUSING THE CHINESE OF VIOLATING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES AND THE INVIOABILITY OF BORDERS IN ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND IN ITS POLICY OF GIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POLITICAL GROUPS IN OTHER COUNTRIES (A MOST UNUSUAL ARGUMENT INDEED IN LIGHT OF REPORTED SOVIET AID TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS). FINALLY, THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT THE CHINESE "THREE WORLDS" THEORY THAT PLACES THE US AND SOVIET UNION IN ONE CATEGORY AS "GREAT POWERS" STAND IN CONTRADICTION TO MARXIST CLASS THEORY AND SERVES THE MAOISTS IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO ATTAIN WORLD HEGEMONY "THROUGH FIRE AND SWORD" BY PROVOKING A WAR BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIETS.

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3. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE CHARACTERIZED CHINA AS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE OF DETENTE AFTER CSCE AND INCLUDES AN OMINOUS REFERENCE TO CHINA'S HAVING ENTERED A NEW STAGE IN ITS ANTI-PEACE, ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES. THE FACT THAT THESE ACCUSATIONS HAVE APPEARED SO SOON AFTER THE HELSINKI SUMMIT LENDS CREDENCE TO THE VIEW THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SEE DETENTE IN EUROPE AS A PROCESS THAT WILL

ALLOW THEM TO SHARPEN THEIR OPPOSITION TO CHINA. THE GDR HAS LONG BEEN THE MOST ARDENT FOLLOWER OF THE SOVIET LINE ON CHINA, AS INDICATED BY ITS INCESSANT PRESS CRITICISM OF MAOISM, ITS ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES TO JOIN IN AN ANTI-CHINESE DECLARATION AT THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN, AND THE FREQUENT HARRASSMENT AND SEVERE ISOLATION IT INFLICTS UPON CHINESE DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE GDR. THUS IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE GDR WOULD BE THE FIRST TO STRIKE OUT AT THE CHINESE AFTER HELSINKI. IN ADDITION, THER ARE REPORTS OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MAOIST SYMPHATHIZERS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE GDR, MOST NOTICEABLY AMONG THE OFFSPRING OF PROMINENT PARTY OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH THOSE WITH A MAOIST OUTLOOK REMAIN A SMALL GROUP IN THE GDR, THEY PROVIDE ONE MORE REASON FOR VITROLIC ARTICLES OF THIS SORT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750299-0355
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975087/aaaaafgx.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR MEDIA ATTACK ON CHINA
TAGS: PFOR, GC, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006